



# SPORTSMAN

## 200 Attendees Soak in Learning at Cape Cod Resort

Over 200 interpreters, members, and guests gathered at the Cape Codder Resort in Hyannis, MA, September 20-23 for the annual IAABO Fall Seminar. The events started on Thursday with a golf tournament at the beautiful Dennis Pines Golf Course, with 60 golfers participating. On Friday, attendees got down to business as the jam-packed schedule with more than 20 presenters began.



The Rules Examination and Constitution Committees met at 7:15 a.m. before the general sessions to work on their topics and missions to service the members of IAABO. Jon Levinson (Bd. 33 NJ), NCAA Women's Basketball Secretary-Rules Editor and Coordinator of Women's Basketball Officials for the Northeast Conference, Patriot League, Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference, and CUNYAC, kicked off the conference's general session as the keynote speaker. He shared with attendees the story of his officiating career and the impact IAABO has had on his successful journey.

Billy Martin (Bds. 34 and 196 NJ) shared his presentation, "The Nature of Feedback," focusing on how we can help our members be more successful in their observations and development. Next up was Mike Thomas, interpreter for Board 8 in Connecticut, who challenged attendees to see, "Are We Reaching Our Members?" in how we communicate and share information and materials. Then, Alan Goldberger (Bd. 33 NJ), IAABO Parliamentarian, shared "Legal Guarding Positions – Fact and Fiction," analyzing fight situations and other basketball altercations and how officials can best handle them.

After a brief lunch, Executive Director Tom Lopes moderated a session with local athletic directors, and examined how we can all work better together to improve these relationships. "Interesting and Unusual Plays" was the next topic on the agenda with a panel led by Co-Coordinator of Interpreters T.J. Halliday (Bd. 20 ME). Charlie Hanbach (Bd. 50, NY), Jimm Paull (Bd. 42 NY), Mike Preston (Bd. 255 VA), and (continued on page 2)

## 5 Things that will Separate You from the Average Basketball Official

Today's article will focus on 5 key things that will separate you from the majority of average basketball officials.

Successful basketball officials don't fall from basketball heaven. They do things that most officials don't to get where they want to be. To put it bluntly, the successful men and women that have achieved great things work hard. They also have developed some personality traits that set them apart from the regular everyday basketball official.

If you're ok with being a mediocre basketball official, this article may turn you off. If you want to be the best, and you want to work for it, this article is for you.

Here are the 5 things that will separate you from the pack.

1. A Love of Officiating
2. Knowledge of the Rules (Be a Rules Master)
3. Being Humble (Listen and taking ownership)
4. Study your games on tape
5. Your Mindset

### ***Do You Love Being a Basketball Official?***

The parents will yell at you, the coaches will disagree with you, the players will complain and your partners will sometimes be difficult to work with. If you don't have a love of officiating, you'll soon become frustrated with all this and throw in the towel.

What else will keep you holding on even when things aren't going the way you think they should? The question is yours to answer. Only time will tell how much you truly love and want it. There is one thing you can be sure of, you will experience trials.

### ***Know the Rules (Master the Rule Book)***

Every foul and violation we call on the basketball court is based on the rules book. Whenever you step on the court you are there to enforce the rules. Knowing the rules gives you the confidence to perform at a high level. Anytime you blow the whistle for a foul or violation, you should have a rule-based explanation ready if needed. If you can't explain why you blew the whistle based on the rules, you shouldn't have blown your whistle.

In most cases, the average official is not a rules master. The average official just wants to get through the game without any headaches. He/She could care less if they "kick" a few rules, they're just happy to get paid and move on to their next games.

### ***You are different. You want to excel.***

You want to be a crew chief and seen as a leader on the court. The official that's looked at as the R even when you may be the U1 or U2. You want to be the official that's recognized by supervisors and assignors as someone who knows what they're doing and can be trusted to step up and make things right (continued on page 5)

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**Approved Basketball Officials, Inc.**  
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 SPORTORIALS (USPS 255-420) is  
 published 5 times per year, January/  
 February, March/April, May/June, July/  
 August and November/December for  
 \$25.00 per year by IAABO at PO Box 355,  
 Carlisle, PA. Periodicals postage paid  
 at Hagerstown, MD, and at additional  
 mailing offices.  
 POSTMASTER:  
 Send address changes to;  
 SPORTORIALS,  
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 Carlisle, PA 17013-0355

### STATEMENT

*The International Association of Approved Basketball Officials, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of basketball officiating, through the proper training of applicants by visual and written aids; constant supervision by board proctors and dissemination of rule changes and interpretations.*

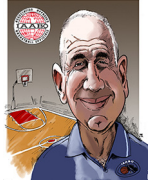
## Director's Court

**Changing Technology at IAABO** - Times are changing within the IAABO. Many of us need to make changes in the way we teach our rule-set using the best methods available. If you attended the Fall Seminar at Cape Cod, you observed a few new programs, specifically an on-line course that may be able to capture individuals who we would have otherwise missed due to the dates of a cadet class. We can now offer this program to these individuals if your board would like to participate in this program. The details have been published on our "Inside the Lines" publication, as well as in this issue of Sportorials. So, let's get onboard and give it a try -- IAABO is available to assist.

Another program called AXON is being developed, and it will bring plays on various topics to the screen. Members will be asked to respond to the official's judgement in a timely fashion. It reminds me of a video game. This project, when funded, will be free for all members, another forward-thinking activity to sharpen your skills.

It is time to get ready for the new season. Your interpreters have been preparing and are ready to share the information received at the Fall Seminar. Please attend your appropriate meetings so that you too are ready to officiate that perfect game.

Best wishes,  
 Tom Lopes



## President's Corner

Just a little over one month ago, the IAABO Fall Seminar in Hyannis, MA. ended, and man, was it spectacular. The efforts put forth by the four co-coordinators to develop training materials for use by our boards were simply outstanding. No other organization in the world produces materials that are provided for FREE to their members. The effort put forth by all of the presenters to prepare for their topic was unparalleled. My challenge to all IAABO Board Interpreters is to take the materials that were provided and use them to make the officials in your board better. First class training materials, first class instructors, first class officials = IAABO officials.

We are also working on providing some new and exciting online training programs that all officials will be able to access on their iPhones/iPads, Surface Pros, and other computers. We are in the final stages of funding the program and are looking to roll-out the program on or about November 15th. Stay tuned, these are exciting times for all IAABO officials.

For most of us, the season is about five weeks away. If you haven't started, now is the time to do some "push-aways" and physical conditioning. High school athletes remain the same age, while we all gain a year. Someone once told me, our bodies are made up of 70 percent of what we eat, 20 percent exercise and 10 percent genetics. Controlling what we eat goes a long way in how we look. You can be the best official in the world, but if you don't look like an athlete, when you miss a play, the coach is going to blame it on your conditioning if you appear overweight or out-of-shape. Enough on the subject. What are you waiting for, get to the gym!

The Officials vs. Cancer campaign is scheduled for January 21 – 27, 2019. This past year, IAABO officials raised over \$300,000, pushing our total to over \$2 million since the inception of the program a little over 10 years ago. Your commitment to the program is the best. Let's continue to push the bar even higher in our attempt to "Crush Cancer." Until next time, have a great beginning of the season.



## Ivan Cranmer, IAABO Life Member Passes



Ivan Cranmer, Bd. 156 NY, passed away at home on Monday, October 1st, 2018. Ivan was inducted as an IAABO Life Member in 2007 at a ceremony held in Mystic, CT. He was a member of IAABO for over 44 years and was the Board Interpreter.



## Cape Cod (continued from page 1)

Terry Irish (Bd. 175 MA) each discussed various plays which raised questions about rules differences, mechanics, and official communication and provided audience interaction and discussion. Then, Felix Addeo (Bd. 33 NJ), IAABO Past President, took the stage and provided interpreters with ways for “Angling for a Better Presentation” in an effort to impress their members with new teaching methods and ideas. Al Battista, IAABO Board 12 Interpreter and NBA Officiating Scout, wrapped up the afternoon with his “Guided Principles” and explained what he and other NBA observers are looking for as they are “Scouting IAABO Officials for Talent.”

Basketball talk continued in the Roger J. Sheridan Hospitality Room, generously stocked and manned by the members of the Massachusetts Boards who were the hosts of the Fall Seminar. A great deal of thanks is extended to the Massachusetts State Board and the local boards for their hospitality, dedication, and generosity throughout the entire conference. We couldn’t do what we do in IAABO without the involvement and support of our local Boards.

Saturday morning started early with some brief announcements and then a presentation on “All the Small Things” by Kelly Callahan (Bd. 11 DE) focusing on rules differences, clear signals, and the little details in officiating. Robert Alston (Bd. 134 MD), chair of IAABO’s Board Relations and Policy Committee, delineated the “Essential People Skills for Officials” and how interpreters can identify and further develop those skills in our officials. Co-Coordinator of Interpreters Layne Drexel (Bd. 11 DE) then took the stage to review various “End of Game Situations” and how preparation and planning is actually the best way to avoid any unwelcome surprises at these critical times in the game. Fellow Co-Coordinator Halliday highlighted the new Crew of 3 Mechanics materials available to interpreters, including an outstanding PowerPoint presentation, adjustable court slides, and more. Thanks goes out to T.J. and his wife, Julie, for all their hard work this summer on this project. Dick Hecker, interpreter for Board 33 NJ, and Board 33’s Cadet Supervisor, Gary Sluck, took an outstanding tag-team approach to the subject of “Verticality,” demonstrating the concepts of guarding position and vertical planes and showing some of the tough plays officials face. Is it a “Player’s Highlight or Official’s Lowlight?” Jeff Jewett, founder and interpreter of Bd. 71 in Arizona, tackled the tough topics of continuous motion and traveling and how officials can study and prepare to ensure that the rulings they make aren’t a lowlight in their careers.

### Abilities of the Brain

It was a quick lunch break and then right back at it for attendees when John Rafferty (Bd. 95 MA) took a “Seussical” approach to “Throw-Ins and Line Coverage.” With his fun, rhyming look at the subject, our officials may never struggle with the important details of throw-ins and line coverage again. We then transitioned from Seuss to science as IAABO’s FIBA consultant Tim Laurain (Bd. 211 ONT) examined the “Science of the Visual Field and Positioning.” An in-depth look at the abilities of the human brain to see various angles and fields left interpreters thinking about new ways to teach positioning and movement.

Co-Coordinator of Interpreters Dan Shepardson (Bd. 105 VT) reviewed “Crew of 2 Mechanics” and highlighted the new

techniques we are implementing in IAABO in this area. Fellow Co-Coordinator of Interpreters David Smith (Bd. 4 CO) then looked at Offense-Initiated Contact and how officials rule on these plays by reviewing the general rules basis for this topic and showing some interesting plays for consideration. Do you know the “Cs of Officiating?” Board 10’s interpreter Ray Vanacore (CT) covered everything from communication to court coverage to crew development in an outstanding review for all officials.

In the Interpreters’ Roundtable, Tom Lopes and Donnie Eppley highlighted the new programs and services being offered to IAABO members and interpreters. State-of-the art, exciting offerings are on the horizon, and development is quickly taking place. We won’t spoil the surprise in this article, but check in this and future editions of Sportorials and upcoming Inside the Lines for the launch of these awesome new services.

The four Co-Coordinators wrapped up the weekend on Sunday morning. Layne Drexel highlighted the Rules Changes and Points of Emphasis for the coming season. Dave Smith and Dan Shepardson reviewed the edits to the IAABO Crew of 2 and Crew of 3 Manuals. Halliday reminded interpreters about the materials available to them through IAABO and shared insight into some new products being offered. Special thanks goes out to the four Co-Coordinators who have done an outstanding job this past year. Their dedication to the game of basketball and the IAABO family is without question. The members of IAABO are lucky to have such individuals working on their behalf every day.

After busy days chock full of information and materials, it was time for our attendees to head home and share what they learned with their local IAABO boards. This concept of sharing and education is the foundation of our great association and how we continue to improve our officiating and commitment to the game we love. We thank all the attendees, presenters, and guests who helped make the 2018 IAABO Fall Seminar a great success.

## Fall Seminar



**Executive Director Tom Lopes visits with more than 35 IAABO spouses and guests who attended the semi-annual breakfast.**



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## 5 Things (continued from page 1)

in a game just when the game and crew needs it most.

This takes study and dedication. To separate yourself as a rules book master you have to commit to consistently study the rules.

### ***Stay Humble – Keep Learning***

You don't know everything and you will be wrong at times. A person that thinks they know it all can never learn anything new.

Find a basketball official that is where you want to be or someone who really knows their stuff that's sharp. Follow them to some of their games and pick their brains. Learn what to do and what not to do by observing and being a student.

Getting paid is the goal of the content average basketball official. Watching another official work games is not something they have time for. Anyhow, they've been doing this for a number of years, and they think they know it all. They feel watching games is of no benefit to them. Set yourself apart by doing what others don't.

Continuously strive to get better by going to teaching camps during the offseason. This is an investment that will pay off in the long run.

We should never become stagnant. You want to keep learning and growing throughout your career.

Humble yourself and learn from those that may be better than you and also learn what not to do from those that may be less skilled than you.

### ***Study Your Recorded Games***

With the technology today it's not difficult to have your games recorded. If you want to separate yourself this one is a must.

Seeing yourself on film is that eye-opener to see what everyone has been telling you about your game.

### ***How can you record your games?***

- Ask a friend (another official, significant other etc.) to come to your game/s and ask them to record you.
- Ask the home and away coaches if they have anyone recording the game (If both say yes ask them both for a copy. This way you have a better chance of getting the game if one forgets or is unreachable afterwards.)

Do this for all your games and break them down as soon as you can after you receive them. You want the memory of the game to be as fresh as possible when you watch it.

### ***You want to look at the following:***

- Your positioning
- Are you hustling?
- Where are you looking?
- Do you present an athletic look?
- How's your posture during live and dead balls?

Breaking down tape is not about verifying your calls. Most everyone knows what fouls and violations are. More important is your positioning, your eyes and body language.

Use the pause button a lot. You want to pause to see what you're looking at when the ball is outside your primary area. Also pausing to see how you look at different dead ball moments.

The reality is, most officials don't study their games. This is an easy way to separate and elevate.

### ***Conclusion: Your Mindset***

Last but definitely not least is your mindset. None of the above can be done without the proper mindset. A wise man once said,

there is nothing stronger than a made up mind. Everything we do is preceded by a thought or an idea.

You have to first make up your mind to want to be the best basketball official you can be. When you truly give it your all, that is the true definition of success.

### ***What is a success mindset?***

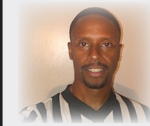
A success mindset is one that understands that it won't be easy. Knowing there will be many stumbling blocks before the goal is reached. The one that understands the bumps, bruises and the disappointments are all part of the process. Through all of this, the person with a success mindset continues to push forward.

After all, if it was an easy road, would you appreciate it the same way?

So preparing yourself mentally to stay the course regardless is the mindset to adopt if you want to separate yourself from the average. The average official will run and hide. While you, on the other hand, smile and say "bring it on".

It's your love, passion and understanding of the process that separates you. They'll think you're crazy and obsessed at first. But you have to be a little crazy and obsessed to be the best. Remember, it's not a sprint, it's a marathon.

Keep doing the little things well consistently and over time success will be yours.



Gary Holt is a member of Bd. 42 NY and has been officiating for 5 years. He lives in Bronx, NY and also writes a basketball officiating blog that can be accessed at <https://basketball-referees.com>

# IAABO

## Inside the Lines Archives

Visit [www.iaabo.org](http://www.iaabo.org)

## Birthday Bash



IAABO Staff Member Kelly Callahan celebrated her 22nd birthday at the annual Fall Seminar in Cape Cod, MA. Happy Birthday, Kelly.

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# IAABO 2018-2019 Significant Manual Revisions

## Glossary of Terms - Help Situations (pages 5-6, 94)

Sometimes there is a need to ask for or offer help to ensure an accurate ruling. This editorial revision modifies the definition to clearly outline the procedure for these situations.

Depending on the information communicated, either official may give the appropriate signal. If the information is used to change the original ruling, the official responsible for stopping the clock shall give the appropriate signal. If the help information is to communicate an original ruling, the assisting official should give the appropriate signal.

## Officials Jewelry (pages 7, 96)

Wedding bands and engagement rings are the only jewelry permitted. Fitness bands are not allowed.

## Special Situations - Clock Awareness (page 9, 99)

One minute remaining in a quarter/period - Recommends that each official in the crew raise an index finger in the air.

## Special Situations - Net Hung Up (page 10, 99)

If your state does not provide any guidance, it is recommended that officials make a mental note of the situation and allow play to continue until the next dead ball with a stopped clock OR the ball is in team control of the affected team in their front court and they are not making an immediate try for goal. Quickly have game management untangle the net and resume play at point of interruption.

## Pre-Game Warm-Up Procedures (page 11-12, 100-101)

Clarified that in a Crew of 2, the Referee will observe and count visiting team members. The Umpire will observe and counts home team members. The Umpire should convey the information to the Referee.

In a Crew of 3, the U1 observes the home team members, the U2 observes the visiting team members. The Umpires should count players and provide information to the Referee.

In both Crew of 2 and Crew of 3, The Umpire(s) will summon the captains and the Referee will summon the Head Coaches to the pre-game meeting.

## Basic Positioning - Trail (page 19, 107)

The Trail should take an initial starting position at or near the 28' line near the sideline when the ball is located in the frontcourt. When the ball/players are in the midcourt area, the Trail official should position adjust and work more toward the division line.

Trail officials are often too deep (near the division line). These officials are often straight-lined on perimeter matchups, working behind shooters, unable to assist on low post play and in poor positioning for rebounding. This guideline was adopted to give officials (in both in a Crew of 2 and Crew of 3) a clear expectation for positioning in hopes of getting the Trail more engaged and more "open angles" on perimeter matchups.

## 3-Point Attempts (page 19, 107)

It is recommended the official signal the 3-point attempt using the arm closest to the division line.

## End of Quarter/Period procedure (pages 20, 109)

By rule, the game clock horn signals the end of the quarter/period unless there is a ball in flight on a try for goal. This provision clarifies that officials should not sound the whistle to signify the end of the quarter/period unless they are ruling that the try was NOT released prior to the sounding of the horn.

## End of Half Procedures (pages 20, 109)

This editorial revision allows officials to make their way to the scorer's table as soon as the players and coaches vacate the bench area. Previously, officials had to wait until players and coaches left visual confines of playing area before proceeding to the scorer's table.

## Start of Half Procedures - Umpire(s) (pages 20, 109)

Deleted the requirement for the Umpire to inform each Head Coach of the team entitled to the throw-in to start the second half.

## Extra Period Procedures (pages 20, 109)



Deleted the requirement to have a formal Head Coaches & Captains meeting before the start of overtime.

The procedure will now require the Referee to inform Head Coaches, scorer and timer the following information:

- A 4-minute period, starting with a jump ball
- A new AP arrow setting
- Each team receives one additional 60-second time-out
- Teams' basket remains the same as the fourth quarter

## Line Responsibilities - Crew of Two (page 22)

Added a graphic to depict the line responsibilities for the Lead and Trail officials.

The graphic clarifies that the Trail official is responsible for the opposite sideline above free throw line extended.

Trail officials should be prepared to work the court (arc) and be prepared to rule on out of bounds violations in that area.

## Straight-lined vs. Open/V-Angle: (page 110)

Being in the correct position is critical to making accurate rulings. Officials need to strive to be in a position to see between offensive and defensive players. This new graphic will give officials a clear depiction of an "open angle" compared to the "straight-lined view".

## Press Coverage (pages 28-29, 117-119)

Previously, pressing situations were not addressed in IAABO manual. This new section outlines specific responsibilities for officials with corresponding graphics for both Crew of 2 and Crew of 3.

## Screening Coverage - Crew of 3 (page 120-123)

At times screening in the midcourt or near the free throw lane requires officials to work together to properly rule on the play. These guidelines with corresponding diagrams will help officials understand how to properly handle these "two official" plays.

## Jump Ball Administration (pages 34, 129)

This revision eliminated the requirement for the Referee (or tossing official) to check with the readiness of captains before administering a jump ball. The tossing official will still check for the readiness of the table personnel and partners before administering the jump ball. The partner(s) in turn are responsible for ensuring the correct number of players are on court before acknowledging the tossing official and allowing the jump ball to be administered.

In a Crew of 3, the U1 will verify there are five home team players and the U2 will verify there are five visiting team players on the court. In a Crew of 2, the Umpire will be responsible for ensuring the correct numbers of players are on the court for both teams.

## Violation Procedures - Signaling (page 39, 138)

Each signal in the sequence should be displayed independently of one another. Ideally officials should strive to stop the clock, signal direction, and indicate the spot using the same arm. Officials should avoid signaling direction across their torso. If this is not possible using same arm as was used to stop clock, officials should drop their stop clock arm and use the opposite arm to signal direction and if needed, switch arms again to indicate the spot.

## Throw-in Administration - Counting Players (pages 41, 140)

The official administering the throw-in will be responsible for verifying the correct numbers of players are on the court for both teams. This important step was added to the throw-in procedures to help avoid unnecessary technical foul situations. Officials should get in habit of verifying the correct numbers of players are on the court before putting the ball in play, especially after a substitution procedure.

## Throw-in Procedures - Crew of 3 (page 148)

The Lead official shall administer the sideline throw-in when the designated spot is below the free throw line extended. Lead remains on the end line and shall bounce the ball to thrower-in. The Trail official shall be responsible for the throw-in count and starting clock upon completion of throw-in.

(continued on page 13)

# A New Approach to the Trail Position

Almost since the day Naismith nailed peach baskets to a wall, people who officiate the game of basketball have had a pretty clear approach to being a Trail official. Whether it is in a Crew of 2 or in a Crew of 3, the old adage has always been “When you’re a Trail, Be a Trail” So it is not difficult to figure out why generations of officials have typically worked behind the play. After all, the very name “Trail” implies this official should follow the play.

In our ever-changing game, offenses and defenses continue to evolve. Now more than ever, there is increasing activity in the midcourt area that needs to be properly observed by officials. The adoption of the 3-point goal was the impetus for teams to move the focal point of their offenses further away from basket. In recent years, more and more teams are beginning to utilize high post screens to create scoring opportunities that is putting a new emphasis on how we officiate plays in the midcourt area. It begs the question, is the “traditional approach” to working the Trail position effective in today’s game?

## The Drawbacks to the “Traditional” Approach

One of the biggest issues is that Trail officials are generally not keeping pace with ball handlers (even in routine transitions) as they advance the ball into the frontcourt. If the Trail is not making the effort to keep pace, the more separation the dribbler creates, the greater the likelihood the Trail will be straight-lined and not have an open angle to rule on potential contact. To compound matters, when Trail officials allow this separation to occur, there is a tendency for officials to work very deep near the division line. This creates a situation where officials will work almost entire possessions behind dribblers and their defenders as well as shooters on contested perimeter shot attempts.

Not only are these officials in poor position to observe the potential contact on tries, unless they make a serious effort, they will most likely find themselves in poor positioning for proper rebound coverage. In possessions where the ball has entered the low post on the Trail’s side of basket line, officials that work deep will not have a good angle to officiate this match-up and often have their view obstructed by other perimeter players. This is especially problematic in a Crew of Two, as the only opportunity to get an “open look” at these players may be lost if the Lead official has not been able to come across the lane and work ballside.

## The Initial Starting Position (Manual pg. 19,107)

To address this issue, this year IAABO has instituted the concept of the “Initial Starting Position” to both Crew of 2 and Crew of 3

manuals. This concept will require officials to take a position at or near the 28-foot line at the sideline when the ball is located in the frontcourt. (See Diagram 1) Using this concept

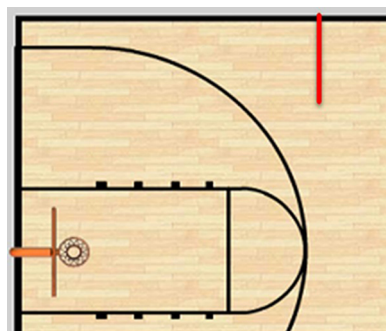


Diagram 1

we hope to educate officials of the value of being more “engaged” on match-ups around the perimeter. Now officials will be encouraged to get to at least the 28-foot line and possibly even further toward the endline if needed to get proper angles.

## Transition Coverage

This change in approach will also impact how we cover plays in transition. When the offense is moving the ball toward the frontcourt at a slow to moderate pace with little or no defensive pressure, officials will need to make an effort to keep pace with the ball handler and maintain an “open look” as the ball crosses the division line into the frontcourt. There will be times the ball is advancing well ahead of the Trail due to an outlet pass or a recovered loose ball on the wing. In cases such as these, the Trail should attempt to “catch the dribbler” and hustle into the frontcourt to obtain the proper angle on the dribbler and any potential defender(s).

Still, there will be times when this is simply not possible. It may be due to the speed of the dribbler or possibly a long outlet pass. When the ball will clearly advance across the division line ahead of the Trail, it is the expectation that the Trail will hustle into the initial starting position at the 28-foot line near the sideline. Trail officials are expected to show a sense of urgency for getting back into the play and covering their PCA in the frontcourt as quickly as possible. It is important to note, that there is no invisible wall at the 28-foot line. At times, the Trail will have to sprint into the front court past the 28-foot line to get an open look at competitive match-ups in their Primary Coverage Area.

## The “Penalty Box”

Another new guideline for officials when deciding on positioning in the frontcourt is to think of the area between the 28-foot line and the division line extended across the court as the “Penalty Box”. (See Diagram 2) Starting this season, officials should refrain from being

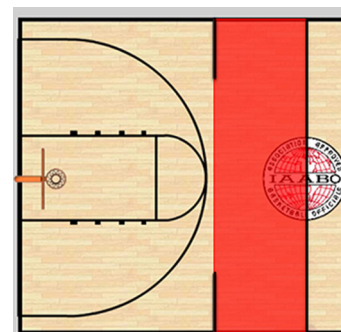


Diagram 2

positioned in this area unless it is necessary to get an open look on match-ups in the midcourt area.

Using the “Penalty Box” as a guide, officials will need to make an adjustment on how to officiate the ball handler and defender in the midcourt area in a Crew of 3. Traditionally when the ball handler and defender were in the midcourt in an engaged match-up, the Trail would step out onto the court to officiate this play. (See Diagram 3). Starting this season, the

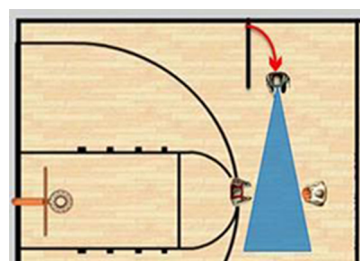


Diagram 3

Trail in a Crew of 3 will be asked to stay at the 28-foot line on the sideline if an open view is available from this spot. (See Diagram 4). If

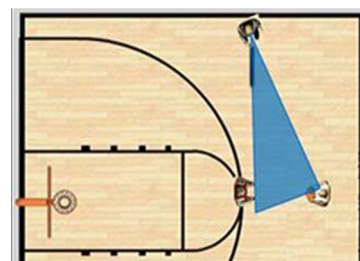


Diagram 4

an open angle is not available, then the official should position adjust as necessary to get the open angle, even if it requires moving onto the court or toward the division line.

It is important to note; this concept should not prevent the Trail official in a Crew of 2 from working the court (arc) in order to officiate plays in their PCA in the midcourt area and across the basketline as needed.

In both a Crew of 2 or a Crew of 3, if the ball is located anywhere in the frontcourt below the free throw line extended, Trail should be at the 28-foot line or be moving toward (wrapping back) to the initial starting position. If there are



## tion (Crew of Two, Crew of Three)

no competitive matchups in this area, there will be no reason for the Trail to be positioned this deep toward the division line. This should give a clear guideline and set expectations for Trail officials to stay engaged and positioned properly in the frontcourt. (See Diagram 5)

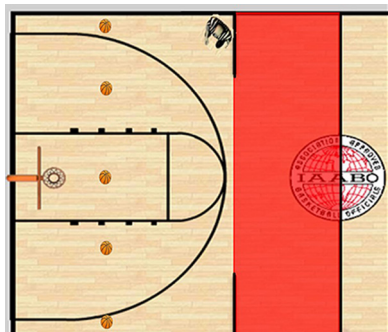


Diagram 5

### What to do if you're straight-lined?

Every official gets straight-lined during the course of a game. It is inevitable. But what we do about it, once it occurs, can make the difference from getting a play right or missing illegal contact or a violation. When the Trail finds itself in a straight-lined position, the preferred adjustment will be toward the sideline versus stepping onto the court. (See Diagram 6) Taking this approach will put the Trail in

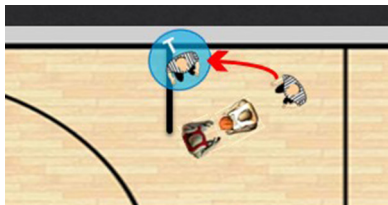


Diagram 6

good position for not only the current matchup, but also in better position on potential drives to the basket, shot attempts, low post play and rebounding activity. When the Trail steps onto the court, it creates a situation where they may have to quickly "wrap back" to the sideline if the play goes towards the basket. However, if it is quicker and more efficient for the Trail to "get on top" of the play, especially on a contested shot attempt, officials would be justified in making that adjustment. But given the choice, working toward the sideline is going to be the best option in most situations.

### "Getting Under" Shooters

One of the biggest benefits of using the 28-foot line as the initial starting position is that it will give the Trail a better opportunity to "get under" shooters on plays we have traditionally officiated from behind. At times, it will require the Trail to adjust their position toward the endline below the 28-foot hash line. This approach will increase the number of shot attempts the Trail will have an open look and as a result be in a

better position to see between the shooter and defender(s) contesting the try. Subsequently, The Trail will also be in much better position for subsequent rebounding activity.

### Sideline Throw-in (Recommendation)

When administering throw-ins along the sideline, Trail officials (in both a Crew of 2 and Crew of 3) should consider the "Penalty Box" concept when determining how to administer the throw-in. The bounce pass is a viable option along the sideline. However, If the throw-in is above the free throw-line extended, the Trail should consider player positioning when deciding if to use the bounce pass or to hand the ball to the thrower-in. If a bounce pass is going to put the official in the penalty box area and all the players are below the free throw-line extended, it is recommended the administering official hand the ball to the thrower-in and be positioned at or near the initial starting position. If players are positioned in the midcourt area in the Trail's PCA, it would be acceptable to use the bounce pass and be positioned above 28-foot hash line.

### What if I get "beat"?

Predictably, one of the biggest concerns from officials on these new guidelines is the concern of "getting beat" up the court as we transition from Trail to the new Lead position. This "fear" has been the rationale why so many officials prefer to work deep as Trail in the first place.

When analyzing our game, very few possessions consider "fast breaks" end with a contested contact situation between an offensive player and a defender. Looking at the percentages, it is very evident there will be many more possessions the Trail official will be needed to officiate competitive matchups from the 28-foot line, than the number of possessions when new Lead will "beaten" on a play in transition.

However, in taking this new approach to working the Trail, there will undoubtedly be times the new Lead will get beat in transition. When this occurs, whether it is a Crew of 2 or a Crew of 3, officials need to know how to officiate this play. The natural instinct in this situation is to hustle to the endline as quickly as possible. However, often this approach leads to the official hustling themselves into straight-lined position. The new Lead will have to employ a couple of techniques to give themselves an opportunity to get an angle on this play.

If the play is on the new Lead's side of the basketline, it may require the official to slow down and take a few steps onto the court to try and find space between the dribbler and defender. (See Diagram 7) It is a tough play and there is no easy solution, but this technique often works on the initial shot attempt and may buy time until partners can get into the front court

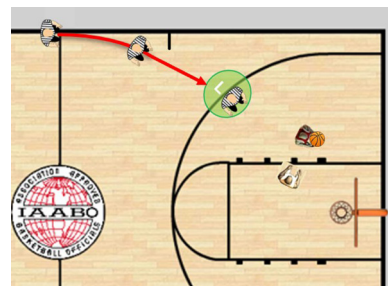


Diagram 7

and provide additional support on rebounding activity.

When the ball is across basketline, it is often much easier to get an angle. At around the 28-foot line in the frontcourt, officials can generally find an angle as they make their way toward the endline. (See Diagram 8) It is often a good

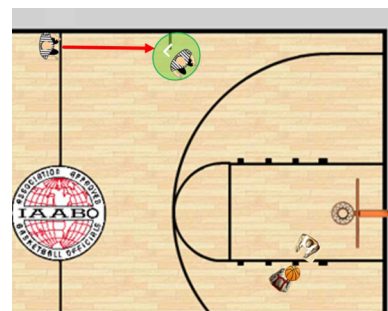


Diagram 8

decision to come to a complete stop and observe the play when contact is imminent. This will eliminate the possibility of the official having "bouncing eyes" and get a clear view of the play.

### Conclusion

The goal for officials is, and always will be, to work hard and "fight" for open looks in order to be in a best possible position to officiate the game effectively. Officials need to challenge themselves to embrace and implement this new approach to working the Trail position. For many, this will be a completely new mindset. The game is ever evolving and we in the officiating community need to be open to making these types of adjustments to keep pace with the demands of today's game. These guidelines were implemented to encourage officials do what is best for the game. This season, officials should strive to master these principles and keep themselves accountable for the decisions they make on their positioning on each and every possession. If officials can incorporate these guidelines, the game will be better served and officiating from the Trail position will be greatly improved.



T. J. Halliday is a 33 year member of IAABO. He is currently serves as Co-Coordinator of Interpreters for IAABO, Inc. and has served as the Interpreter for Board 20 (ME) since 2008. He has presented at the IAABO Fall Seminar every year since 2009 and has contributed to several IAABO videos and other educational materials.



## Fall Seminar Photos



Rules Examination Committee Meeting



Jack Doyle (Red Jacket)  
conducting golf registration



The sessions were well attended  
throughout the weekend



Jon Levinson, Bd. 33 NJ and NCAA  
Women's Secretary-Rules Editor



Fall Seminar Host Committee, Jack Doyle, Tim O'Brien, Bruce Anderson,  
Mike Hammond, Rich Antonelli (Left to Right); Larry Machione (Back)



Robert Alston, Bd. 134 MD



John Rafferty, Bd. 95 MA



Jeff Jewett, Bd. 71 AZ



Al Battista, Bd. 12 DC



Billy Martin, Bd. 196 NJ



Louie DeGeorge, Bd. 194 NJ,  
getting ready to golf



Jon Lowe, Bd. 95 MA



Walt Rusak, Bd. 33 NJ



Gary Montel, Bd. 4 CO,  
raising the flag



## Fall Seminar Photos



Dave Engleson & Rich Antonelli, Bd. 27 MA



Archie Mellace, Bd. 130 MA, and Jack Doyle, Bd. 27 MA, both IAABO Life Members with over 108 years of combined service to IAABO, Inc.



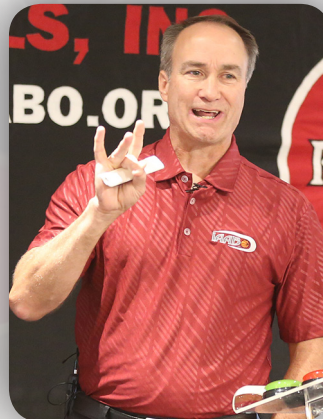
Packed House



Layne Drexel, Bd. 11 DE, and Co-Coordinator, IAABO, Inc



T.J. Halliday, Bd. 20 ME, and Co-Coordinator, IAABO, Inc.



Mike Thomas, Bd. 8 CT



Dan Shepardson, Bd. 105 VT, and Co-Coordinator, IAABO, Inc.



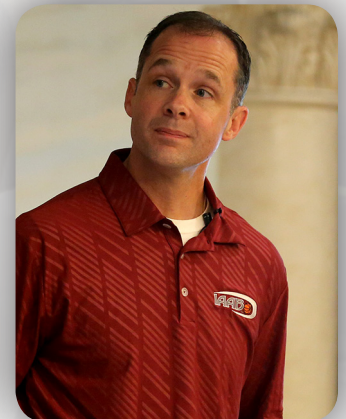
Dick Hecker, Bd. 33 NJ



Felix Addeo, Bd. 33 NJ and IAABO Past President



Alan Goldberger, Bd. 33 NJ and IAABO Parliamentarian



Gary Sluck, Bd. 33 NJ



Nancy Lopes and Sandra Amato getting set to move out to the first hole for golf



Mike Thomas, Bd. 8 CT, presenting Are You Reaching Your Members?



Gary Montel, Bd. 4 CO, and Bob Lantzy, Bd. 4 CO, and IAABO Executive Committee Member



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## Manual Revisions (continued from page 7)

### Foul Procedures/Table Report (pages 54-55,151-152)

At the site of the foul, along with verbalizing the color and number of the offending player, this revision requires officials to also verbalize the type of foul while giving the appropriate signal. This same verbalization (color, number and type) is also required when reporting the foul to the official scorer.

### Technical Foul Procedures – Bench Personnel/Head Coach (pages 56,152)

A technical foul, direct or indirect, charged to the Head Coach results in the loss of coaching box privileges. Previously, the Referee was required to inform the Head Coach of the loss of the coaching box privileges. Beginning with the 2018-19 season, any official on the crew may inform the Head Coach. This change will allow crews the flexibility to make an effective decision on which official would be best to communicate this information in each situation.

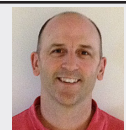
### Free Throw Coverage – Lead Official (pages 78, 181)

The Lead will take a position that allows the official to observe the players in the first lane space on the nearer lane line and in the three spaces on the farther lane line. This revision deletes the requirement to be approximately 4 feet from nearer free throw lane line and off the court near the end line. This change allows officials the flexibility to take a position with depth off the endline and/or toward the sideline as needed to observe the players along the lane and be in position to rule on rebounding activity.

### Timeout Procedures (pages 80, 186)

Starting in the 2018-19 season, prior to granting a time-out request by the Head Coach, the official must see OR hear the coach. Previously, officials were required to see and hear the request. In many situations it is difficult for officials to turn away from play to observe the timeout request. This change gives officials flexibility in making the decision to grant a request for timeout without turning away from the court.

After the timeout is granted, officials should make eye contact with each other to confirm the proper throw-in spot before reporting to the official scorer. This will help officials get to proper timeout positions more efficiently.



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## Officials vs. Cancer



The IAABO Foundation, Inc. presented a check in the amount of \$10,000.00 to the American Cancer Society in support of the annual Officials vs. Cancer campaign. Pictured (Left to Right) are Willie 'LA' Jones, President, IAABO, Inc., Donnie Eppley, Associate Executive Director, Joe Gintoli, IAABO, Inc. Past President, Bill Varno, IAABO, Inc. Past President and Brian Casalinova, American Cancer Society.

## IAABO Facebook Post Goes Off the Charts

### TWO PARENTS WATCHING JUNIOR BASKETBALL

"Which one is your boy?"  
"Why?"  
"I wanted to tell him how rubbish he is"  
"You can't say that he is only a kid, how would you like it if I said that to your boy?"  
"You have done that all game"  
"Who is your boy?"  
"The referee"

THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK



A recent IAABO Facebook post went off the charts. In our basketball officiating world, we'd say it went viral. That's pretty awesome stuff because it means readers like you went to the page and shared it with others. Super high numbers in terms of Facebook Reach and Engagement don't occur without that sharing.

Check out the photo attached with this article. That's the post. Take a minute and let it sink in. Now, why did so many basketball officials find it relevant and want to make sure they shared it in their Facebook feed?

We'd argue that the issue of sportsmanship is HUGE for basketball officials. We all have stories to tell about obnoxious fans and parents. Stories abound in the news about officials being attacked after or even during games. That affects us on an emotional level and our love for the game of basketball.

Very few of us officiate for the money. Most of us do it because in some way, shape or form, we love the game of basketball. We may want to give back. We may want to stay involved. We may appreciate all the friendships developed while officiating over the years. But we don't continue to officiate because we'd like to more verbal fan abuse.

Our Facebook post captured that message. It's cute and cuts to the chase. It's shareable. It's visual. Those qualities raised its numbers in terms of various engagement statistics.

Just to give you a sense of the numbers, here are a few: The post went up October 11. By October 14, it's "Reach" was 24,502. What is "Reach?" It means reaching people within their News Feeds, on your Page and as shared by friends. That many people were exposed to the post in their News Feed. Incredible stuff. To put it in context, we typically get about 200-400 people in terms of reach for our posts. A phenomenal post for IAABO gets a reach of 2,000 or more. This post was 12 TIMES THAT!

Let's take a look at a few more numbers. Engagement on the post was 1,487 as of October 14. Facebook Engagement is defined as post clicks, likes, shares and comments. Our high number for this page is probably around 60 or so. We typically get 20-40. This post was almost 20 times higher than our high-end Engagement.

The post was Liked 87 times. We average 2-5 Likes on a normal post, and probably hit 20 for a great post. This one was 4 times our typical high-end post.

Leaving the most interesting stat for last, the post was shared 212 times. That's a key statistic. It means 212 of you wanted others to see it. That matters. It meant enough that you wanted it to penetrate further into the public arena. That's phenomenal. We usually get 2-3 shares for a post, and a really good number is 20, so we got 10-times what a typical high-end post gets for us in terms of Shares.

This says a lot about IAABO and those of you who follow us on Facebook. You care about the game of basketball and those who officiate it. You want to spread a positive message about sportsmanship.

Follow us on Facebook. Call up IAABO on your Facebook account and like our page. You'll see us in your News Feed. If you find something useful, interesting or worthwhile to others, please share it. Good messaging matters. If we're going to curtail some of this bad fan behavior, we all need to be part of the solution. If you have a fun, worthwhile or interesting photo or clip, please email Donnie Eppley with it, at [eppleyd@comcast.net](mailto:eppleyd@comcast.net).



Willie "LA" Jones Willie 'LA' Jones is the currently President of IAABO, Inc. He has been a member of Bd. 12 DC since 1972

## Flow and Spirit Under FIBA Rules

When I started officiating under FIBA rules in the 1970s, there were a number of opinions that emanated from the coaches we had to deal with. Comments like, “Anything goes in a FIBA game,” and, “We don’t call that in FIBA” made it a challenge for those of us whose developmental stages had been with NFHS rules. As we grew to understand the rules, we found that the overreaching goal of the FIBA game was to have play that flowed, therefore making it entertaining to watch. The whole idea that the game could become non-active with a team sitting on the ball and not trying to score was anathema to them. So, shot clocks prevented that and the philosophy of advantage/disadvantage was the golden rule.

### **Rule 47.3 under Officials: Duties and Powers lays it out.**

When deciding on a personal contact or violation, the officials shall, in each instance, have regard to and weigh up the following fundamental principles:

The spirit and intent of the rules and the need to uphold the integrity of the game.

- Consistency in application of the concept of “advantage/disadvantage.” The officials should not seek to interrupt the flow of the game unnecessarily in order to penalize incidental personal contact which does not give the player responsible an advantage nor place his opponent at a disadvantage.

- Consistency in the application of common sense to each game, bearing in mind the abilities of the players concerned and their attitude and conduct during the game.

- Consistency in the maintenance of a balance between game control and game flow, having a feeling for what the participants are trying to do and calling what is right for the game.

For FIBA officials, that means we can’t just be reactive to a situation, we have to have a reasoned response (i.e. “that was a foul because....”). And, although flow may be our goal based on our feel, there are many games and situations that prevent that flow from occurring, and there are also rules that are obligatory (making the ball go out-of-bounds is always a violation, and a backcourt violation is always a backcourt violation).

The FIBA rules document also stresses consistency and uses it three times in the article. NFHS rules for example do not



use the term and define what is legal and illegal concerning contact. To be consistent we have to “apply our judgements the same way,” while at the same time understanding the capabilities of the players and their mental state as well. In short, we have to interpret what we see and decide in what manner we will apply the rules.

The FIBA game for the most part was designed for adult players at an elite club or national team level. For us in Canada however, the majority of our games are not that. We go from ages 10-up to college and university level players. What constitutes “incidental” contact becomes very different between two athletic 190-pound college players compared to two 90-pound kids. The incidence of the contact for the former is probably quite intense while its effect may be minimal for both players, and therefore be ruled as “incidental contact”. The understanding of that contact and the skill not to react to its intensity is what we must develop in order to become effective officials at the level in question.

There is a problem that hides in article 47 however, that is leading to interpretations and applications not intended by the spirit and intent of the rule in two important areas. In both of them it’s a desire not to interrupt the game that is at fault. We see when we look at the article “personal contact or violation” written side by side before the rest of the wording which deals with contact. Then we see the words “not seek to interrupt the flow of the game unnecessarily” and try to look for ways to minimize violations. The unfortunate result is that Articles 26, and 43 have become the victims at certain levels of play.

The purpose of Article 26 (3-Seconds) is to reduce congestion and roughness in the restricted area. If we set it aside because we don’t want to stop play for what seems to be perceived as a non-important rule, then we create problems that have even more effect on the game (score and fouls). Any offensive player in the restricted area is less than 6 meters from the basket, so they have a greater chance of scoring when they shoot,

and a greater chance of securing a rebound on a shot by a teammate. To allow them to stay there in excess of the limits gives the offense an advantage. In addition to those chances, the defensive team can’t ignore a player who is there, but must guard them. At the very least, it takes the guard’s attention away from the offensive flow and makes her less able to react to it. If the guard does concentrate on what is happening away from the player she is responsible for, then in order to legally guard that player, she must re-establish position which again gives an advantage to the offensive player. The more serious result of not dealing with 3 seconds is that the player forced to watch/guard the offensive player who is violating starts to push them away from the proximity to the basket, which when it escalates makes us blow the whistle and charge the defensive player with a foul that our lack of enforcement has allowed to happen.

Article 43 deals with free throws and the violations that are concerned with the lane spaces and 3-point arc. Here the “don’t interrupt the game” idea messes things up once again. In FIBA, the violations for those behaviors only occur when the free throw is missed. If the defending team violates, the shooter gets a replacement. If the offensive team does, then the defending team gets the ball for a throw in at the free throw line extended. Not calling a violation on the defending team takes away a possible point from the opponent. (We have manipulated the score with that error in judgement.) We miss some of these and we need to be aware of the result.

The more complex problem is when the offense violates and the defending team gets the rebound. If we assume that the advantage created by the violation doesn’t exist (i.e. the defense has the ball, so play on), then we end up with what can be called “the unforeseen consequences of our actions/decisions.” Which are:

1. A held ball occurs, and the defensive team has the ball on the baseline instead of FT line extended.

2. The held ball goes to the offensive team and the defense no longer has the ball, which is being thrown in in the most favorable place for the offense.

3. The former offense presses and causes an 8 second violation.

4. The offensive team steals the rebound and has a chance to score.

5. If #1-4 were to (continued next page)



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# IAABO Lines

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Condolences to: ***Bd. 127 NY***, on the passing of their longtime member, ***Arthur Woods, Jr.***; Condolences to: ***Bd. 41 NY***, on the loss of the member, ***John McCrink***, Condolences to: ***Tom Reese, Past President, IAABO, Inc.*** and member, ***Bd. 244 MD***, on the passing of father and father-in-law; Condolences to: ***Bd. 156 NY***, on the passing of IAABO Life Member ***Ivan Cranmer***; Condolences to: ***Anthony Ferriso, Sr. and Anthony Ferriso, Bd. 119 NY***, on the passing of their father and grandfather respectively.